



US 20020068619A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
NAGAI(10) **Pub. No.: US 2002/0068619 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Jun. 6, 2002**(54) **PORTABLE PHONE DEVICE**(52) **U.S. Cl.** **455/575; 455/90; 455/566**(76) **Inventor: MICHIO NAGAI, TOKYO (JP)**(57) **ABSTRACT**

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Sep. 19, 1996 (JP) 8-247396

Publication Classification(51) **Int. Cl.⁷ H04B 1/38**

A personal communication device is folded for compact portability, yet allows viewing of certain essential data such as caller phone number, signal sensitivity, cell boundaries, battery life and messages, without unfolding the phone as well as accessing important function keys. This is made possible by arranging a part of the display section to be in view even when the phone is folded for carrying. When the ear piece of the phone is opened for telephoning, the overall length of the phone is such that the mouth section is opposite to the user's mouth. In the basic design the receiver is located in the movable ear piece so that its length can be kept short. The keyboard section can be located on any surface of the main body of the phone, and an example shows a side mounted keyboard section, thus allowing to operate the phone without unfolding the phone. A liquid crystal touch panel for display section is convenient because it can fulfill both functions of display and keyboard section while retaining the features of a compact size and an ability to operate in the folded condition.

